

Spider John Recovering...

The [Triangle Folk Music Society](#) has just gotten word from the chilly north that Spider John Koerner has had triple bypass heart surgery and is recovering at home in Minneapolis. This was the sudden illness that sent him into the hospital and kept him from performing in Chapel Hill in February.

A friend sends along this information about a recovery fund, with more background about the man and his music:



From: RFELDHOUSE@aol.com

Date: Mon, 16 Feb 1998 22:34:07 -0500 (EST)

Subject: Re: Spider John Koerner Recovery Fund

Legendary folk and country blues musician 'Spider' John Koerner recently underwent emergency triple bypass surgery. Like many musicians, John has no health insurance and he and his family are facing staggering hospital and doctor bills. A fund has been set up in his name at First Bank Lake in Minneapolis. Donations can be sent to:

The John Koerner Fund
PO. Box 14770
Minneapolis, MN 55414-0770

Koerner is known for both his solo work and his work in the Sixties with the influential trio Koerner, Ray and Glover. As a trio, Koerner, Ray and Glover cut five albums for Elektra with recently reissued *Blues, Rags & Hollers* often cited as one of the most important works of the era. Artists as diverse as John Lennon and The Doors lauded *Blues, Rags & Hollers* and have cited the trio as influences.

When the trio drifted apart in the late Sixties, Koerner pursued a solo career and in 1969 recorded *Running, Jumping, Standing Still* with Minneapolis musician Willie Murphy. In the Seventies Koerner fell in love with traditional American folk music and became involved in preserving and promoting this genre. During this era, he recorded two albums on Ray's Sweet Jane Ltd. label; *Music is Just a Bunch of Notes* (with Willie Murphy and the Bees) and *Some American Folk Songs Like They Used To*.

In the Eighties and Nineties, Koerner recorded several albums on the Red House Records label including *Nobody Knows The Trouble I've Been*, *Legends of Folk* (with Ramblin' Jack Elliot and Utah Phillips), *Raised By Humans* and *Stargeezer*. In 1996, Koerner reunited with Ray and Glover to record *One Foot in the Groove* (on the Tim Kerr label), their first recording as a trio since 1972.

The Minnesota Music Academy has twice named Koerner, Ray and Glover "Best Folk Group" and has elected them to the Minnesota Music Hall of Fame, along with Prince and Bob Dylan.

Koerner is recovering from his surgery in his south Minneapolis home.

Here's wishing Spider John a speedy recovery... and it sure would be nice to see a concert in Chapel Hill back on the schedule whenever he's ready...

[TFMS Home Page](#)